# COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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BATTLE POSITION—Army Chief of Staff Gen. William C. Westmoreland, visiting NORAD Combat Operations Center, Colorado Springs, sits in the position from which NORAD commander-in-chief, Air Force Gen. Raymond J. Reeves, would direct a defensive battle in event of enemy air attack. In the foreground is Lt. Gen. George V. Underwood Jr., ARADCOM CG, and behind Gen. Westmoreland is center director, Canadian Armed Forces Brig. Gen. William Weiser.

## Warnke Scores North Viets On Treatment of Prisoners

Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Paul C. Warnke believes animosity between nations cannot excuse inhumanity to those whose only offense is that they sought to serve their country.

"A significant test for a civilized nation is the way it treats enemy prisoners," Secretary Warnke said in a Philadelphia, Pa., speech Aug. 5.

Addressing The Judge Advocates Association and American Bar Association, Secretary Warnke said he had assumed certain significant obligations to a very special group of clients. "These are the servicemen held captive on the other side of the world by foreign governments and by Hanoi's allied insurgents."

As Chairman of the Department of Defense Prisoner of War Policy Committee, Secretary Warnke said unfortunately there wasn't a happy ending for the crew of the Pueblo held in North Korea and the two officers held in Communist China. "And most of the Americans captured by the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong," he said, "have not even been acknowledged by the enemy as being in its hands."

Secretary Warnke pointed out that the majority of our captured military personnel are concentrated in Vietnam and so they get the greatest share of attention. "Our primary interest and main effort," he said, "has been to make North Vietnam abide by its responsibilities as outlined in the 1949 Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, a

(Continued on Page 7)

## DOD Announces Plans to Cut Costs in FY69

The Defense Department is planning to reduce expenditures in FY69 by up to $3 billion and "new obligational authority" by $5 billion.

According to the Defense Department, a thoroughgoing review to identify areas in which FY69 expenditures could be reduced has been underway. This review—known as Project 693—has been carried out under three principal guidelines:

1—The needs of our forces in Southeast Asia must be provided for fully, without exceptions.

2—The necessary reductions must be accomplished in such a manner as to minimize their adverse effects on our overall military strength.

3—The programs and activities selected for reduction must be arrived at cooperatively by the services and the OSD staff, and all proposed changes involving forces and major weapon systems must be reviewed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. When agreement cannot be reached through this procedure, the issue is resolved by Secretary Clifford and Deputy Secretary Nitze.

Final determinations of all actions necessary to meet the Department's share of the limitations imposed by the Act (the Revenue and Expenditure Control Act of 1968) cannot be made until Congress completes action on pending Defense authorization and appropriations bills. However, the Defense Department said, "it is prudent and necessary that some actions be taken without further delay if the required reductions are to be achieved."

The first major action taken under

(Continued on Page 3)

# President Signs Three Bills Benefitting Veterans

President Johnson has made it clear that America does not forget the long legion of brave men who have served in freedom's cause.

The occasion for President Johnson's remarks was the ceremony in which he signed three measures that broaden and improve veterans' benefits.

"We care for all of them," the President said, "the 23 million veterans of our wars; the 70,000 servicemen now returning to civilian life each month, and their dependent survivors.

"Their sacrifices have earned our people's gratitude; their needs demand our nation's concern," he said.

Probably the most important of the three measures was PL 90-431, which went into effect July 26. Under this measure veterans with service-connected disabilities serious enough to qualify for vocational rehabilitation training through the Veterans Administration are now eligible for a part-time training allowance. Before the President signed the new measure, only veterans taking full-time vocational rehabilitation training were entitled to a training allowance.

The VA noted that President Johnson, in his special message to Congress on servicemen and veterans last January 30, called for enactment of the part-time vocational rehabilitation legislation.

It was explained that the full-time vocational rehabilitation training allowance remains at $110 monthly for veterans with no dependents, $150 for veterans with one dependent, and $175 for veterans with two or more dependents.

Permitted for the first time under PL 90-431 are three-quarters time training allowances of $80, $110 and $130 monthly, respectively, for veterans with no dependents, one dependent, and two or more dependents. The newly authorized half-time training allowances are $55, $75 and $85 monthly.

It was emphasized by the VA that in addition to the training allowance and costs, the eligible service-disabled veteran, whether receiving full-time or part-time vocational rehabilitation training, is also paid a service-connected disability compensation from VA based on his degree of disability.

President Johnson explained that the first law (PL 90-431) gives those who need vocational rehabilitation the right to choose such training on a part-time basis, so "they may work even as they learn." The other bills, he said, enable the Federal Government to increase payments to state and community veterans' homes "to assure even higher standards of care for our former servicemen."

The President said "these three bills will help provide and sustain decent standards of care and imaginative programs of help for the men who have fought our wars."

## Navy Selects VSX Contractors

The Naval Air Systems Command has selected two contractors to perform "contract definition effort" for the VSX (developmental antisubmarine weapons system. The VSX is rine seen as a carrier-based antisubmarine warfare aircraft replacing the S-2 "Tracker."

The two contracts, totaling about $19 million, will be awarded in the near future to Convair Division of General Dynamics Corp., San Diego, Calif., and Lockheed-California Corp., Burbank, Calif., teamed with Ling-Temco-Vought Aerospace Corp., Dallas, Tex.

The S-2, which has been in service for more than 15 years, is a twin reciprocating engine plane. The VSX will be powered by high bypass turbofan engines and will be capable of speeds and ranges twice that of the S-2.

The Navy said the use of digital computers will enable the four-man crew to perform its mission at least ten times as effectively as at present. The computer will be able to analyze underwater sounds and other required sources of information and present the data on television-like displays for interpretation.

By automating routine jobs, the crew will be left free to analyze the data and make more thoughtful decisions. The Navy said the VSX will be comparable in size to the "Tracker."

**TOP-LEVEL DISCUSSION—Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam, I Corps Commander (left) and Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., CG, III Marine Amphibious Force, discuss a point with Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., Commander of the Marine Corps, upon his arrival at Da Nang, during a tour of Marine organizations in Vietnam in early August.**

# Army Amends Reg. On Establishment of Central Records Facility

The Army is amending a regulation (AR 630-10) to require establishment of a "central records facility" at the headquarters of each installation, activity, or other comparable administrative level within CONUS and overseas to examine, correct and maintain records of personnel dropped from the rolls of an organization as deserters.

It has been noted, the Army said, that an excessive number of personnel records are incorrect or incomplete. This causes delays in disposition of charges against personnel when returned to military control, the Army said.

Under the newly-amended regulation, the central records facilities will be required to correct and/or complete records immediately. CONUS facilities will forward the records to Army headquarters in Washington on the 31st day after an individual is dropped in desertion.

Overseas areas will forward records to Army headquarters, Washington, immediately after review and correction.

The Army said commanders will insure strict compliance with the amended regulation and establish such procedures as necessary to provide prompt correction or completion of records.

The amended regulation is expected to be published soon, the Army said, but until it is action is to be taken to establish the central records facilities. The records are to be forwarded to TAGO, Attn: AGPO-SA, in accordance with Section VII, AR 630-10.

**COMMANDERS DIGEST**

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REFUELING UNDERWAY—Service Force fleet oiler USS Platte (center) refuels two Seventh Fleet customers, a destroyer and an aircraft carrier, while underway in the South China Sea. The Platte and other Service Force oilers transferred 357 million gallons of petroleum products during the first half of 1968.

# DOD Orders Cost Cut-Back

(Continued from Page 1)

this program was the decision not to complete the activation of the 6th Infantry Div., announced in July. Another major action in this program is the inactivation of 50 Navy ships and eight Naval Air Squadrons. Most of the ships are small combatants, auxiliaries and amphibious ships of World War II construction.

Fleet strength in support of military operations in Vietnam will not be reduced by these actions, Defense said.

The major units scheduled to be inactivated are the guided missile Light Cruiser USS Topeka, built in 1944; the ASW Support Carrier USS Randolph, also built in World War II; and the nuclear-powered submarine USS Triton, whose keel was laid in 1956, and the first ship to circumnavigate the world under water.

The Topeka, Randolph and Triton all were scheduled for major overhaul.

Seven of the 11 destroyers and five of the nine destroyer escorts involved will become Naval Reserve Training ships and will replace older and smaller escort vessels assigned to the Ready Reserve.

The ships to be inactivated are divided between the Atlantic and Pacific fleets, 32 and 18 respectively.

Nearly 1,000 officers and almost 12,000 enlisted personnel will be rotated to other assignments to meet current Navy requirements, but the net result of these inactivations will be reduction of approximately 13,000 personnel in the Navy's total strength.

The Navy estimated there will be reduced expenditures of about $118 million dollars in FY69 as a result of the actions. Specific ships or units to be inactivated have not yet been determined in all cases, the Navy said.

# OUR POSITION IN PARIS

*U.S. Ambassador W. Averell Harriman recently summarized the proceedings to date regarding U.S.-North Vietnamese peace negotiations in Paris. Following is the text of notes used by Ambassador Harriman at the July 17th session of official conversations with the representatives of North Vietnam in Paris.*

Your Excellency, at our last meeting you reviewed what you regard as the essential elements that have emerged in our conversation to date. I have re-read that review—as I promised I would—and I find it an inaccurate and most unsatisfactory description of these talks.

Today, I want to summarize for you what we consider are the essential elements covered thus far in these conversations.

As you know, we have made a significant number of concrete proposals that would advance these conversations and would move us closer to a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam conflict. And that, after all, is the reason we came to Paris. It is what the world expects of us.

Yet each of these constructive proposals we have made has been rejected out of hand. Your only answer has been the repetition of a slogan: Stop the bombing and pull American forces out of Vietnam.

That, Your Excellency, is not a serious proposal because you refuse even to discuss any de-escalation on your side. Thus it is an absurd demand made for propaganda purposes.

I have stated many times that the United States is prepared to stop the bombing of the remainder of North Vietnam, but I have asked what would happen then. I have asked what you will then do—slow the pace of the war or continue to heighten the level of your aggression? And to that central question, you have given no answer—no answer whatsoever.

Are we to interpret this to mean that further restraint on our part will be met again by further escalation of violence on your part?

## Summary of U.S. Proposals

I spoke earlier of the specific proposals we have made. Let me summarize them.

We have suggested restoration of the Demilitarized Zone to the status that we envisaged for it in the Geneva Agreement of 1954. We have also suggested we consider such matters as stopping all artillery fire from or across the Demilitarized Zone and reducing the flow of armed men and military supplies into South Vietnam. These steps would help separate the fighting forces of the two sides. They would reduce the level of violence and move us along the road to peace.

Your only reply has been: You are not prepared to discuss these matters. The United States must stop the bombing at the very moment when you have increased your military activity in the area of the Demilitarized Zone including shelling from the territory of North Vietnam against allied forces and civilians in South Vietnam.

We have urged that all parties abide fully by the provisions of the Geneva Agreement on Laos of 1962.

You refuse to respond to this proposal to respect the neutrality of Laos, which would help bring peace to Southeast Asia. There is no problem, you say, except the aggression of others. Your Excellency, the people of Laos and the people of the world know better than that.

We have urged that all concerned respect the territorial integrity and neutrality of Cambodia.

Your only response is to say that this is something we should not talk about, even though Cambodia was first raised in these conversations by your side.

We have suggested that we seek a formula for peace based on the essential elements of the 1954 Geneva Agreement. This would end the violence and open the door to a full settlement. The world is aware, as you are, that the Geneva Agreements provide an end to violence and forbid you to attempt by force to take over South Vietnam.

Your answer is that only your side understands the essentials of the Geneva Agreement and the only violations are those by others. That is not an answer. It is just propaganda, and you and the world know it.

## Reunification by Free Decisions

We have declared that we will support any arrangements for the eventual unification of Vietnam by peaceful means that are determined by the people of the north and by the people of the south through their own free decision.

The prerequisite to reunification is peace. Yet you reject that necessary condition for a truly free choice and insist on your right to carry out a planned campaign of violence against the people and the government of South Vietnam. It is to resist your effort at forcible conquest that the people of South Vietnam have fought so valiantly for so long against you. And it is the reason that American and other allied forces stand at their side in this fight against your military ambitions.

We have stated that the United States believes that all of the South Vietnamese people should be allowed to participate peacefully in their country's future, and have reaffirmed our belief in self-determination on the basis of "One man—one vote."

Your only answer is: Pull out U.S. forces and leave the Vietnamese alone. By that, Your Excellency, you mean we should leave the people in South Vietnam to be overwhelmed by your terrorist actions and military force.

We have restated here our intention to withdraw our forces from Vietnam—as your side withdraws, as infiltration stops and the level of violence thus subsides. We have urged that we discuss such a program of mutual withdrawal.

Your only answer is: Pull out U.S. forces now.

In addition to these specific proposals aimed at finding a just and honorable settlement of the Vietnam conflict, we have made other suggestions.

## A Future of Progress

We have noted that a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Southeast Asia could open the way to an era of progress and economic advance. We have offered our pledge of cooperation in this effort. And we have made clear we believe that North Vietnam could participate in, and benefit from, this kind of cooperation with its neighbors and others.

You have shown no interest in this approach to increasing the economic strength and progress of the region in which you live. You have given no sign that you are ready to live in peace with your neighbors or to work with them in harmony toward common goals.

Finally, we have repeatedly suggested that we make joint efforts to lower the level of propaganda that has been injected into these proceedings. We have suggested that we get away from long prepared statements and press releases. In short, we have proposed that we talk to each other about the serious business of finding a peaceful settlement—and stop engaging in polemics.

You once said that you would consider this idea—but you have given no answer. Meantime, you have continued to use this forum to twist facts, grossly distort history, and to try to confuse public opinion in order to gain support fo your one-sided stand.

I am convinced that most people around the world recognize clearly what you are trying to do. And they are increasingly concerned with this continued effort on your part to avoid the real problems of peace in Vietnam.

These are the facts of our previous 12 meetings. It is a record of specific and constructive proposals on our part aimed at finding answers to the serious and difficult problems entailed in ending a bitter and bloody war. And it is a record on your part of efforts to disclaim any responsibility for that war and to use these conversations solely as a forum for propaganda.

This is the record of words spoken in this room.

## The Record of Deeds in Vietnam

On March 31, President Johnson announced that bombing over most of North Vietnam had ended. And he said that even the remaining bombing over a strictly limited portion of your territory could end if only our restraint was matched by restraint on your part.

What have your forces been doing during this period of restraint on our part?

Since the beginning of April, armed men and war material have been pouring down the infiltration trails of Laos into South Vietnam in unprecedented volume. The Demilitarized Zone has regularly been violated in the most flagrant manner. Your forces and those of the Viet Cong have sent rocket and mortar shells indiscriminately into Saigon and other centers of population in an effort to terrorize the people.

You carried out a large-scale but unsuccessful offensive in many parts of the country in May. Prisoners and captured documents indicate your forces plan still another major offensive in the future.

In short, while we have tried to find a path to peace, you have tried to justify your use of force and your campaign of violence.

Your Excellency, it is not enough to simply say: Stop the bombing and take U.S. forces out of South Vietnam.

We and the world want to know what North Vietnam is going to do to end the fighting in Vietnam. What would North Vietnam do if the remainder of the bombing of the north ends? We have repeatedly stated that the United States is prepared to stop the limited bombing of North Vietnam, but that to do so requires consideration of the circumstances in which this can be done.

I appeal to you to consider deeply the proposals we have already made—proposals that can begin the process of making peace.

That is what is expected of us here in Paris.

I urge that we get on with that task.

If you are prepared to move with us toward peace, we can achieve our goal speedily. As President Johnson so vividly stated it on May 30: "If Hanoi were to give a positive response, we would be prepared to go far and fast with them and the others in order to further reduce the violence and to build a stable peace in Southeast Asia."

# Clifford Says Project 100,000 in Top Shape

The Defense Department's "Project 100,000," initiated in October 1966 to give young men previously disqualified for military service an opportunity to qualify as fully satisfactory servicemen, is in excellent condition.

Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford, in an Aug. 3 memorandum to President Johnson, said "we are on schedule in meeting our target, and by every measure the program is a success."

The goal was to accept and train 40,000 men the first year and 100,000 the second.

During the first 21 months of the program through June 1968, a total of 118,163 men were given an opportunity for military service under the program. Secretary Clifford said, "it is planned that an additional 21,837 will receive similar opportunities through September.

On the statistical side of the program, Secretary Clifford told President Johnson that "the average age of men in "Project 100,000" is 20.4 years; 40 per cent are non-white, and 38 per cent were unemployed."

He said an additional 18 per cent earned less than $60 a week; that half (57 percent) had not completed high school, and the median reading ability was 6.1 grades.

As required, he said, special reading assistance has been provided to help men qualify for effective service in uniform and for more productive lives when they complete active duty in the armed forces and return to civilian life.

Secretary Clifford said that 96 per cent of all the men who entered military service in "Project 100,000" have successfully completed basic training. This is only 2 per cent less than the "graduation rate" for all other men entering the armed services.

Among the first group of "Project 100,000" men who entered the Army during the last three months of 1966, Secretary Clifford said a total of 84 per cent have received promotions, including 47 per cent to corporals and sergeants.

In the educational upgrading field, the Army started large-scale remedial reading programs in April 1968, with planned input of about 10,000 in the first year. The six-week course is given after basic training. Early results show average reading gains of two grades.

The Air Force is sending about 500 men and Navy is sending about 800 men a year to remedial reading courses to assist them in passing basic training.

"Project 100,000" men are encouraged to attend off-duty educational courses leading to high school equivalency certificates.

Types of assignments handed "Project 100,000" men are: combat specialties, 38 per cent; technical specialties, 62 per cent. The technical specialties include maintenance, supply, equipment operation, food service, administrative, medical, crafts and communications.

# 'Stormfury' Hurricane Seeding Project Underway

Preparations are underway to seed 1968 hurricanes between Aug. 5 and Oct. 15 with silver iodide in a continued effort to learn whether the violence of such storms can be lessened.

Scientists from the U.S. Navy and the Environmental Sciences Services Administration (ESSA) of the Department of Commerce are making the plans and have called their Project "Stormfury." The Project's goals are to achieve better understanding, improve prediction, and inquire into the possibility of modifying some aspects of the destructive tropical storms.

Plans for the 1968 project were announced by Dr. Robert M. White, ESSA Administrator, and Capt. E. T. Harding, USN, Commander of the Naval Weather Service Command. The program is a joint Department of Defense—Department of Commerce undertaking. In the modifying experiments, hurricanes are bombarded with silver iodide and carefully measured to learn whether the seeding lessens the storm's violence.

A "dry run" opened the modification experiment on Aug. 5. A moving hurricane center was simulated by a circling aircraft for the eyewall practice. A line of cumulus clouds, if available, were to be used to simulate the rainband of the hurricane for a practice test of seeding procedures.

The areas in which seeding is authorized have been extended, the Defense Department said, to permit experiments in the southwestern North Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico, when the probability is 10 per cent or less that the center of the treated hurricane will come within 50 miles of a populated area in the next 24 hours.

This expansion of the Stormfury experimental area has been made possible by the increasing accuracy of hurricane forecasts, particularly the predictions of storm paths.

Project officials hope the new criteria will provide a better opportunity for hurricane seeding. Since the program began in 1961, experiments have been performed on only two storms—Hurricane Esther in 1961 and Hurricane Beulah in 1963.

The results were encouraging, DOD said, but definite conclusions cannot be drawn from such a small sample.

Until 1967, seeding was restricted to an Atlantic area through an average of less than one storm passes per year. No suitable storms occurred in that area during 1965 or 1966. The experimental area was expanded in 1967, but for the first time in 14 years no hurricane passed through the enlarged area.

This year—from Aug. 5 to Oct. 15—project Stormfury scientists, aircraft and flight crews will be on the alert for hurricane-seeding missions. As many as 14 planes of ESSA, the Navy and Air Force will participate.

# Warnke on Prisoner of War Treatment

(Cont. from Page 1)

convention to which North Vietnam became a signatory on June 28, 1957."

He said all avenues to this goal and to the eventual safe recovery of our captured servicemen are continually being explored.

"The first big hangup," he said, "is the dispute over the status of American men who are shot down and captured in North Vietnam. North Vietnam has persistently argued that these men are 'air pirates' or 'criminals' subject to punishment according to their laws.

"At one time in July of 1966," he continued, "Hanoi even threatened to begin trials of these pilots as war criminals. The outcry this threat evoked throughout the world apparently induced them to reconsider."

These war trials have not been held, Secretary Warnke said, but "North Vietnam continues its claim that these captured American members of the uniformed Services are criminals and not prisoners of war. We have maintained consistently that under the provisions of the Geneva Convention these men are prisoners of war entitled to its full protection.

"Hanoi's arguments that they are not prisoners of war are without legal validity and seem to me to be utterly frivolous."

Secretary Warnke noted that American military personnel were captured by North Vietnam as uniformed members of the United States Armed Forces. As such, he said "they clearly qualify as prisoners of war under Article 4A (1) of the 1949 Convention, which covers members of the armed forces of a Party to the Conflict."

He said the Hanoi government has also sought to argue that the Convention does not apply in the absence of declared war. "But Article 2 of the Convention," he pointed out, "specifically states that it shall apply 'in all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties, even if the state of war is not recognized by them.' Although there have been no declarations of war in the conflict in Vietnam, it is clearly an 'armed conflict' between parties to the 1949 Convention, and has been so declared by the International Committee of the Red Cross."

Secretary Warnke said the 1949 Geneva Convention on POWs requires that its signatories provide names of prisoners they hold to the International Committee of the Red Cross or to another neutral, impartial entity.

"The United States," he said, "has repeatedly sought—through international, governmental, and private intermediaries—to secure such lists of Americans held captive. Hanoi has not responded. For its part, the South Vietnamese Government — with our cooperation — has provided such lists to the ICRC."

Secretary Warnke noted that Article 8 of the Geneva PW Convention provides for a Protecting Power for prisoners of war. "Again," he said, "North Vietnam has rebuffed all efforts to fulfill this requirement of the Convention."

In the absence of a Protecting Power, the Detaining Power is obligated to accept the offer of services of a humanitarian organization such as the International Committee of the Red Cross to assume a Protecting Power's functions.

He said North Vietnam has rejected the ICRC's offer to fulfill this responsibility.

Turning to Articles 71 through 76 of the Geneva Convention that guarantee the right of prisoners of war to send and receive letters, Secretary Warnke said "North Vietnam has sharply restricted mail facilities for the American PWs. Only a few," he said, "have been permitted to send letters to their families and there is reason to speculate that mail privilege rights may be used selectively to bring pressure on captured Americans."

In another instance, the ICRC has forwarded some 80 letters a week—a total of more than 9,000—addressed to United States military personnel held prisoner in Vietnam, Secretary Warnke said.

"But there has been virtually no indication that the letters have actually been delivered to the addressees."

These facts, he said, refute the occasional unsupported claims by Communist journalists that there is 'lively mail correspondence' between the PWs and their families.

Secretary Warnke pointed out to his audience that Hanoi has consistently refused to allow the ICRC or any other neutral intermediary to enter North Vietnam for the purpose of visiting the prisoners and inspecting their places of detention.

In addition, the ICRC has repeatedly called the attention of the Hanoi Government to its obligations under the 1949 Convention. Also, the ICRC has asked North Vietnam for lists of prisoners, for improved facilities for mail and packages, for the right to visit prisoners, and for other opportunities to validate the claim of humane treatment.

"North Vietnam has ignored or rebuffed ICRC's attempts," the Secretary said.

**NUMBER ONE—Brig. Gen. Franklin A. Nichols, Ground Electronic Engineering Installation Agency (GEEIA) Commander, presents GEEIA hard hat to Gen. Jack G. Merrell, Commander, Air Force Logistics Command, making him "No. 1 GEEIA Team Chief." Gen. Merrell was on his first visit to Griffiss AFB, N.Y., since assuming command of AFLC in March.**

# Paris Peace Talks Center on Laos Situation

The political and military problems in Southeast Asia are not confined to Vietnam soil, but embrace her neighbor as well.

The Paris peace talks have confirmed the fact that North Vietnamese and Lao Communists have been trying to force their alien philosophy on the Laotian people for more than 20 years.

Ambassador at Large W. Averell Harriman, head of the U.S. delegation at Paris, chose July 31 to answer North Vietnamese charges that any discussions on Laos constituted an infringement upon the sovereignty of Laos. Very simply, he reminded the North Vietnamese delegation that it was they who first raised the subject at the opening session May 13, and then went on to present proof that the government of Laos regards what is happening on its territory as directly related to North Vietnamese aggression in South Vietnam.

Ambassador Harriman began by saying that "Within the past week Souvanna Phouma, Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers of the Government of Laos, announced the publication of another White Book on the violations of the Geneva Accords of 1962 by the Government of North Vietnam.

"Prince Souvanna Phouma," he said, "heads a sovereign, independent, neutral government, fully accepted as a member of the community of nations, and recognized by the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, as well as your own government." The Prince himself signed the foreword to the White Book, Ambassador Harriman said.

Ambassador Harriman then quoted directly from the document:

"We hope that from now on the world will be willing to admit that the Vietnam war also extends to Laos, and that this has been the case for the past 20 years, and that it is escalating on a daily basis as a result of the ambitions of the Hanoi government to see the Kingdom of Laos one day become a satellite of North Vietnam, and eventually serve as a base for further conquests."

Ambassador Harriman then pointed out how the Prince had traced the melancholy recent history of Laos, whose people escaped colonialism in 1949 only to fall prey to the depredations of the Communist part of North Vietnam and its Laos adjunct, the Neo Lao Hak Xat, and then quoted directly from Prince Souvanna Phouma's White Book:

"The 1962 (Geneva) Accords, guaranteed by 13 powers, were in our eyes to end external interference and the beginning of an era of peace and work . . .

"However, after their signature, the Accords were violated by the Hanoi Government. While strong North Vietnamese forces were still present in the Kingdom, a number of North Vietnamese . . . did report to the control points. This is all that the Hanoi Government has admitted by way of North Vietnamese presence in Laos . . .

"In any case, today there are at least four North Vietnamese divisions in Laos, operating alongside the Neo Lao Hak Xat . . .

"In these conditions, when we speak of North Vietnamese interference and aggression against our country, we are not merely speaking of myths but of known and proven facts, verified by the International Control Commission, denounced by the British government and by a body of international journalists.

"The North Vietnamese weapons, aircraft, dead defectors, and wounded counted on Lao soil are not fiction. The 600,000 refugees coming from the Neo Lao Hak Xat areas cannot all be liars and the facts they report cannot honestly all be doubted.

"Thus, the North Vietnamese aggression against Laos, a sovereign country, a neutral state, and a member of the United Nations is unquestionable."

Ambassador Harriman said the White Book detailed further proof that North Vietnam presently has deployed within the Kingdom of Laos some 57 battalions of the North Vietnamese army, plus 12,000 troops guarding the hundreds of kilometers of North Vietnamese army supply lines which pass through Lao territory into South Vietnam. The White Book, he said, puts the total of North Vietnamese troops on Lao territory at 40,000.

"The most recent White Book of Laos," Ambassador Harriman told the North Vietnamese delegation, "presents proof that your government has made a mockery of these agreements from the time they were signed to the present."

**JOINT HONORS—Gen. Robert W. Porter Jr. (left), Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command, and RAdm. G. A. Henderson, Senior Directing Staff, British Imperial Defense College, salute during a joint honor ceremony for the admiral at Quarry Heights, Canal Zone. Adm. Henderson headed a group of 14 senior officers and officials of the British Imperial Defense College on an orientation tour of U.S. Military installations in the Canal Zone area.**

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